Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 079917
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:RGRICH,JR.:JCM
APPROVED BY EA:WHGLEYSTEEN, JR.
EA/J - MR. KILPATRICK
EUR/EE - MR. ANDREWS
S/S-O - MR. CASTRODALE
----------017389 290142Z /63
O P 290121Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 079917

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, KS, YO, US, KN

SUBJECT: JAPANESE EMBASSY BRIEFED ON YUGOSLAV KOREAN INITIATIVE

1. SINCE WE LEARNED MARCH 27 THAT YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT HAD INFORMED JAPANESE AMBASSADOR IN BELGRADE OF RECENT TITO INITIATIVE REGARDING A TRIPARTITE MEETING INCLUDING NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA AND THE UNITED STATES, DEPARTMENT CALLED IN JAPANESE EMBASSY COUNSELOR ARIMA MARCH 28 FOR BRIEFING BY KOREA COUNTRY DIRECTOR ON NATURE OF YUGOSLAV PROPOSALS MADE DURING TITO VISIT TO WASHINGTON MARCH 7-9.

2. WE STRESSED THAT TRIPARTITE MEETING WAS YUGOSLAV PROPOSAL, BUT THAT WE HAD ENCOURAGED GOY TO SOUND OUT

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NORTH KOREAN WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE. WE NOTED THAT ROKG HAS BEEN KEPT FULLY INFORMED, AND WHILE ROK NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT ANY MEETING INITIATED BY YUGOSLAVS, WE EXPECTED ROKG TO CONTINUE BASIC WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH NORTH KOREA. WE DID NOT REVEAL SPECIFIC ROKG CONCERNS WHICH HAVE BEEN VOICED TO US, BUT INVITED GOJ TO ENCOURAGE POSITIVE ROK RESPONSE TO POSSIBILITY FOR TALKS IF PYONGYANG

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SHOULD PROVE MORE FLEXIBLE THAN IN THE PAST.

3. ARIMA INFORMED US THAT JAPANESE HAD BEEN BRIEFED IN BELGRADE BY GOY, BUT EXPRESSED WARM APPRECIATION FOR FULLER DESCRIPTION PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT. IN VIEW OF STANDARD NORTH KOREAN POSITION ON DIRECT TALKS WITH THE ROK, AND DPRK SUSPICIONS OF YUGOSLAVIA, ARIMA EXPRESSED PESSIMISM THAT YUGOSLAV APPROACHES WOULD ELICIT ANY CHANGE IN PYONGYANG'S POSITION.

4. WE REQUESTED JAPANESE TO HANDLE INFORMATION ON THIS MATTER ON VERY RESTRICTED BASIS WITHIN GOJ AND NOTED THAT WITH EXCEPTION OF ROKG WE HAD NOT BEEN BRIEFING OTHER GOVERNMENTS ON THE TITO INITIATIVE.

5. FOR YOUR INFORMATION WE ARE REPEATING FOLLOWING MESSAGES TO EMBASSY TOKYO TO FILL YOU IN ON FULL BACKGROUND THIS SUBJECT: STATE 065788, STATE 065759, SEOUL 2190, BELGRADE 2258, SEOUL 2518, AND BELGRADE 2473.
COOPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, BRIEFING MATERIALS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE079917
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RGRICH,JR.:JCM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780135-0593
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780313/aaaaaknc.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 5b735ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3168578
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPANESE EMBASSY BRIEFED ON YUGOSLAV KOREAN INITIATIVE
TAGS: PEPR, KS, YO, US, KN
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5b735ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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